

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 /078 W

----- 104571

R 021210Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2280

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION VISITS KHARTOUM

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. DIRG DELEGATION LED BY MAJOR ASRATA DESTA, HEAD DIRG INFORMATION COMMITTEE, MET AUG 1 WITH NIMEIRI HERE. ACCORDING TO SUNA REPORT, ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT TEFERE BENTE CONGRATULATING HIM ON DEFEAT "OF FOREIGN INVASION AGAINST SUDAN". NIMEIRI EXPLAINED TO ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PLOT AND PRESENTED DOCUMENTS ON MOVEMENTS OF MERCENARIES FROM PLACES WHERE THEY HAD BEEN SUPPLIED WITH ARMS AND FROM WHICH THEY HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED TO INVADE SUDAN. NIMEIRI ASSURED ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION THAT "ETERNAL" RELATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLES OF SUDAN AND ETHIOPIA WOULD REMAIN STRONG.
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2. IN DAYS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING COUP ATTEMPT, SUDANESE MEDIA MADE NUMBER REFERENCES TO FACT SOME OF REBELS CAME FROM ETHIOPIA. FONOFF U/SEC MIRGHANI TOLD AMBASSADOR AT
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SAME TIME THAT GOS FOR PRESENT PAYING LESS ATTENTION THIS

ASPECT IN ORDER GIVE PRIORITY TO LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT. HOWEVER, NIMEIRI AND TEFERE BENTE EVIDENTLY HAD CORDIAL MEETING AT PORT LOUIS DURING OAU SUMMIT AND RECENT REFERENCES TO ETHIOPIA IN CONNECTION COUP EVENTS HAVE BEEN SPARSE. SUNA ITEM AUGUST 1 REPORTING TRIAL OUTSIDE KHARTOUM OF ADDITIONAL 210 ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY IN COUP QUOTES ACCUSED TO EFFECT THEY HAD RECEIVED MILITARY TRAINING IN ETHIOPIA AT "GONDORA, SHADEIDI EL KHOR AND SHAHEIDI EL BAHR" BUT NO EFFORT MADE IMPUTE ETHIOPIAN GOVT. ROLE THEREIN.

3. COMMENT: WHILE GOS HAS SO FAR MADE NOTHING OF SUCH USE ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY IN ITS PUBLIC COMMENTS RE GOS/ ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS, WE ASSUME PRIMARY PURPOSE ASRATA DESTA'S VISIT IS TO FORESTALL ANY SUCH PLOY BY REASSURING SUDANESE AS TO DIRG INTENTIONS. FOR ONCE, ISSUE OF NIMEIRI'S LONG-STANDING ERITREAN MEDIATION HAS PROBABLY TAKEN SECOND PLACE IN GOS/DIRG TALKS. BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, INVASIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY LOGISTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976KHARTO02280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760297-0939
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760896/aaaadgvz.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION VISITS KHARTOUM BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, SU, ET, (ASRATA DESTA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006